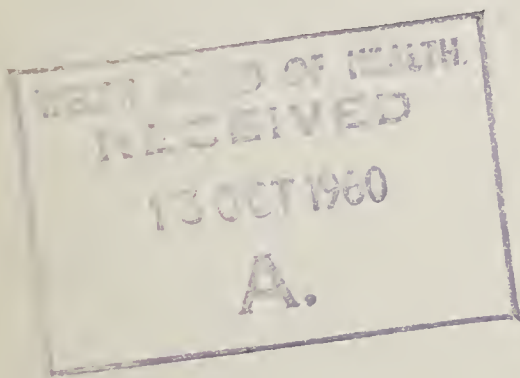


BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1959.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Members of the Borough Council, 1959.

Councillor K. M. Hutchings J.P., Mayor

Alderman R. W. Thomas

Alderman W. G. David

Alderman Robert Thomas

Alderman Mrs. G. Tilley

Councillor M. E. Edwards (Deceased)

Councillor E. John J.P.

Councillor Mrs. F. E. Hinton J.P.

Councillor R. H. Williams J.P.

Councillor T. J. Williams

Councillor Glyn McNeil

Councillor T. A. Cooksley

Councillor Mrs. D. Buchalik

Councillor H. C. Weston

Councillor Roy Edwards

Councillor Peter Sheppard

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BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1959.

September 1960

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
Cowbridge Borough Council.

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1959.

The Welsh Board of Health have intimated in Circular 1/60 (Wales) the general lines for the presentation of the Report, and so there are sections dealing with vital statistics, social conditions, infectious diseases, housing, public cleansing and food hygiene.

The estimated population as returned by the Registrar General is now 990 which is the first time for many years for such a low figure.

During the year there were 9 births and 11 deaths.

There were 23 cases of infectious diseases notified and in only one case was it necessary for hospital treatment.

Unfit or Category 5 properties are 3 in number and it is hoped that these can be dealt with in the near future.

It is satisfactory to note the improvement which has been carried out during the year at many of the food preparing premises, thus giving rise to a higher standard of hygiene. There has been an improvement in the appearance of many of these premises in the town during the year.

As a result of the improvements which were carried out at the sheep and cattle market a few years ago there has been considerable benefit to the traders who patronise it on market days.

The new Magistrates' Court which is now being built adjacent to the old Court is nearing completion and will be a much needed improvement in the Borough.

I wish to thank the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors, also the Officials for their co-operation during the year.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

G. McKIN THOMAS

Medical Officer of Health.

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Borough of Cowbridge is a small market town comprising an area of 84 acres, and the present Registrar General's estimate of the population is 990. It is situated on the main highway from London to Fishguard and in the heart of the Vale of Glamorgan. It consists mainly of a mile long street astride the small River Thaw that flows south of the Bristol Channel.

The Borough is the natural centre of the Vale of Glamorgan and on market day (traditionally Tuesday but recently held on Monday), its importance as an agricultural centre becomes very obvious. Farmers, butchers and cattle dealers come from far and near. The principal industries are clearly in keeping with agricultural pursuits such as agricultural engineers, agricultural merchants and shops and professional offices which specialise in country requirements.

The Cowbridge Grammar School is situated within the Borough and in addition to some 50 boarders, attracts day boys from the neighbouring villages and townships of Llantwit Major and Llanharan. The Girls' High School, adjoining the Borough but in the neighbouring Rural District, serves a similar function, although it no longer accommodates boarders. The Pontfaen Junior School provides elementary education and, in addition, there is a small private junior school in the High Street.

Public water supply is available throughout the area. A house to house collection of refuse is carried out at weekly intervals. Electricity, gas and a sewerage system are also provided in all parts of the town.

There are no large factories, the factories existing engage a small number of employees some of whom are members of the owners' own families. A list of factories registered with the Council is as follows:-

1. Mr. A. Sanders, Boot Repairer.
2. Messrs. D. Brown & Sons Ltd., Printers.
3. Messrs. Arthur Jones & Sons Ltd., Builders Yard.
4. Messrs. Robert Thomas & Sons Ltd., do.
5. Mr. Frank Sanders (Cowbridge) Ltd., Garage Proprietor.
6. Mr. A. H. Jones, do.
7. Wales Gas Board, Gas Holders.
8. Glamorgan County Council, Builders Yard.
9. Mid-Vale Motor Co., Ltd., Motor Engineers.

SECTION "A".

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Area (In Acres) | 84 |
| Number of inhabited houses according to the rate book | 309 |
| Sum represented by the penny rate | £47. 4s. 0d. |
| Rateable value of the district | £12,534 |
| Population (Registrar General's estimate) | 990 |

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.

Births Registered - 1959.

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate live births | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Illegitimate live births | - | - | - |
| | <u>5</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>9</u> |

Still Births.

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate still births | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Illegitimate still births | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | <u>Nil</u> | <u>Nil</u> | <u>Nil</u> |

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Birth Rate Cowbridge Borough | 9.45 |
| Birth Rate for England and Wales | 16.5 |
| Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan | 16.4 |
| Birth Rate for Urban Areas in the Administrative County | 16.27 |

Death Rate per 1,000 Population.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Death Rate for Cowbridge Borough | 11.55 |
| Death Rate for England and Wales | 11.6 |
| Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan | 13.86 |
| Death Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan | 13.93 |

Causes of Death, 1959.

| <u>Disease.</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 2 | - | 2 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other heart disease | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 1 | - | 1 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Total | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| | <hr/> | | |

SECTION "B".

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

G. McKim Thomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health (Part-time holds appointment with Cardiff and Cowbridge Rural District Councils).

(b) Public Health Inspector.

Hubert Thomas M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector.
(Part-time holds appointment with Cowbridge Rural District Council).
Certificate of Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors
Examination Joint Board, Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate of
the Royal Society of Health.

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Committees Dealing with Health Matters.

The Monthly Meetings of the Council and Standing Committees both deal with health matters as the occasion demands.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Area Ambulance Services are administered from the Ambulance Control Station, Oak Street, Aberkenfig, the telephone number of which is Aberkenfig 303.

In addition to the vehicles at the Ambulance Control Station, one ambulance is stationed at the Ambulance Sub-Station, Town Hall, Cowbridge and another at the Ambulance Sub-Station, Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals or nursing homes within the area. Infectious cases are usually admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Cefn Hirgoed although under regionalisation specific cases might be admitted to other more convenient hospitals.

Medical and surgical cases are admitted to any of the Board's Hospitals in Bridgend and Cardiff. By arrangement with the Air Ministry several civilians in the area have been treated at the hospital at the Royal Air Force Station, St. Athan.

Maternity cases usually enter the Bridgend Hospital or St. Athan R.A.F. Hospital. Of the 9 births during the year three were born at home and the remaining six in hospitals in the surrounding districts.

Ear, nose and throat diseases in children under 15 years of age are dealt with in the Children's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Cowbridge Road, Ely, Cardiff. In addition, some patients receive treatment at the Bridgend Hospital. Children suffering from squint can also receive treatment at the Orthoptic Clinic, and those cases needing operative treatment are admitted to the Children's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital as above.

Laboratory Facilities.

All pathological specimens are examined at the Ministry of Health's Public Laboratory at Cardiff and chemical analyses are carried out by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

A hard water of high bacterial quality is provided by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board throughout the Borough.

With one exception all properties in the Borough are connected to these mains.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The old public swimming pool on the bed of the River Thaw north of the town and in the Cowbridge Rural Area, has not been used for several years, and it is unlikely that it will again be used for organised bathing.

No further progress was made with regard to providing a swimming pool on a site adjoining the River Thaw, which was the subject of a special report in 1958.

Schools.

The following schools are situated in the Borough:-

- (a) Cowbridge Grammar School, providing boarding facilities for 50 boys and day-boy accommodation for 317.
- (b) Y Bontfaen Junior School providing accommodation for 95 pupils.
- (c) Private Junior School, Westgate Street provides for 38 pupils.

The Grammar School has separate facilities for cooking for the boarders and day-boys and these have been found to be satisfactory.

The meals for the Junior School are prepared on premises at Eastgate Street, Cowbridge and conveyed to the school each day.

The County Council have a proposal to construct a new canteen with dining facilities on land at the rear of the existing Bontfaen School.

Rivers and Streams.

The diversion of the River Thaw through the town in 1958 has resulted in the area of the town around the Town Hall being free from flooding.

Some flooding occurs at the west end of Cowbridge during periods of exceptionally heavy rainfall when water collecting on agricultural lands discharges on to the highway, resulting in surface water drains being insufficient to convey the water from the highway.

During the year representatives of the Glamorgan County Council, Glamorgan Highways Department, the Borough and Rural District Councils, met to discuss the matter. The only conclusion was that the ditches be kept clean.

HOUSING.

(a) New Council Houses. The Council's housing estate remains at 56 dwellings. No new houses were constructed in 1959 but the development of a scheme for Council houses at The Stumpy Site was in progress at the end of the year. The proposal was to provide 8 flats and 6 houses.

During the year application was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a grant under Section 15 of the Housing Act, 1949 towards the cost of reconditioning Nos. 6 and 7 Church Street, Cowbridge. The works included the provision of a bathroom, plumbing etc.

Four of the six older houses owned by the Council have now been improved with the aid of grants.

(b) Private Enterprise. Plans for five new houses were approved during the year. Two of these are at Llandough Road and three at Broadway, Cowbridge.

(c) Selection of Tenants. Tenants of Council houses are selected by the points scheme. The home conditions are investigated by the Public Health Inspector who reports the points awarded to the Council. In this way the most deserving cases are given priority. The final selection of the tenant is made by the Council.

HOUSING (CONTD.)

(d) Demolition or Closure of Unfit Houses. It is hoped to proceed with the demolition of the remaining unfit houses in the area in conjunction with the new housing programme now proposed.

Housing Improvement Grants.

The Public Health Inspector reports that the following applications for Improvement Grants were approved during the year:-

(a) Discretionary Grants.

| <u>Property.</u> | <u>Synopsis of Work.</u> | <u>Grant.</u> |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|
| (i) 7 Westgate Street | Provision of bathroom, hot and cold water etc. | £194. 10s. |
| (ii) 1 Croft Street | Provision of bathroom, hot and cold water etc. | £182. |
| (iii) 71 High Street | Conversion of premises into flat | £340. |

(b) Standard Grants.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| (i) 1 High Street | Grant of £130 paid. |
| (ii) 1 The Limes | Grant of £104 paid. |
| (iii) 12 Westgate Street | Grant of £155 paid. |

Since the commencement of the scheme in 1955 17 Discretionary Grants have been made.

Plans.

The following plans were approved under the Building Byelaws during 1959:-

| | |
|---|-----------|
| (a) New houses | 5 |
| (b) New business premises | Nil |
| (c) Additions or alterations to houses or business premises | 9 |
| (d) Drainage works | 1 |
| (e) Stores, garages etc. | 1 |
| Total | <u>16</u> |

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal. A twice weekly collection takes place from cafes and hotels in the town; the remaining premises have a once weekly collection. Collections and disposal are by arrangement with the Cowbridge Rural District Council who use a modern refuse freighter for this purpose. There is no refuse disposal site within the Borough.

The work is undertaken under the direction of the Public Health Inspector.

(b) Refuse Bins. As a result of action over the past years the majority of houses are provided with properly constructed refuse bins. The Public Health Inspector takes informal action where necessary to require householders to provide dustbins.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (CONTD.)

(c) Street Cleansing. The main highway through the town is swept twice weekly by the Glamorgan County Council who operate a mobile street sweeper for the purpose. The side streets are serviced by direct labour employed by the Borough Council.

Street litter bins are provided at certain points in the Borough.

(d) Cesspool Emptying. One house only in the Borough now has cesspool drainage and the use of the Cowbridge Rural cesspool emptier is available when required.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Sewage from the Cowbridge Borough is treated jointly with the villages of Llanblethian and Aberthin (within the area of the Cowbridge Rural District), at a disposal plant sited near Lake Farm within the area of the latter authority.

The maintenance of these works is shared between the two authorities concerned.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

There are no factories producing smoke in the Borough nor are there any such premises within the vicinity of the town. As a result, there is no atmospheric pollution in the area.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.CAMPING LICENCE.

No caravans were licenced by the Borough Council during the year.

DOMESTIC PESTS.

(a) Rodent Control. The Borough Council has an arrangement with the Rural District Council for the use of their rodent operative. Warfarin is now used for this work and has proved to be quite satisfactory.

Details of the works carried out during the year are set out in the following schedule.

| Type of Property | Properties in Area | Inspections | Minor Infestations of rats and mice found | Treatments carried out |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|---|------------------------|
| Local authority | 3 | 3 | Nil | Nil |
| Dwelling houses | 309 | 72 | 18 | 18 |
| Business premises | 51 | 16 | 5 | 4 |
| Agricultural | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Total | 363 | 91 | 23 | 22 |

(b) Other Pests. The Public Health Inspector gives advice where required on modern methods of eradicating domestic pests.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Cowbridge Borough is within the specified area under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950. There are no registered dairies within the area, the distributors concerned operate from the adjoining rural district,

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of distributors on Register | 3 |
| Number of dairies registered | Nil |

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

Number of Supplementary Licences issued authorising the use of special designations:-

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| (a) Pasteurised | 3 | (c) Tuberculin Tested | 1 |
| (b) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) | 2 | | |

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

All catering establishments within the Borough have premises and equipment which comply with the above Regulations. Routine inspections are made at food handling shops within the Borough and any infringements of the Regulations are drawn to the attention of the occupier.

The number of food handlers is too small to organise a successful course in clean food handling.

The hotels and inns in the Borough are all provided with water closets and drainage connected to the public sewer.

MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGES, PRESSED MEATS ETC.

The increase in the number of national firms manufacturing sausages, pressed meats etc., has resulted in most grocers in the town selling these foods from refrigerated counters or frozen food cabinets. This has possibly reduced the demand for sausages manufactured by the local butchers. Four butchers premises are registered with the Council for the manufacture of sausages etc.

ICE CREAM.

The ice cream dealers in the town all purchase their supplies from one or other of the national manufacturing companies.

All samples taken during the year were in Grade 1 which is satisfactory and all samples taken since 1954 have been satisfactory.

| Provisional Grade | Provisional Interpretation | No. of Samples 1959 |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Satisfactory | 7 |
| 2 | Fairly satisfactory | Nil |
| 3 | Unsatisfactory | Nil |
| 4 | Very unsatisfactory | Nil |

| Provisional Grade | Percentage of Samples in Cowbridge Borough | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|------|-------|------|------|------|--------------|-------|
| | 1947 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 - 58 | 1959 |
| 1. Satisfactory | 33.3 | 25.0 | 100.0 | 45.5 | 90.0 | 72.7 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 2. Fairly satisfactory | 16.7 | 25.0 | Nil | 36.4 | Nil | 27.2 | Nil | Nil |
| 3. Unsatisfactory | 50.0 | 25.0 | Nil | Nil | 10.0 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 4. Very unsatisfactory | Nil | 25.0 | Nil | 18.2 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.

The four butchers in the Borough purchase meat from wholesalers operating outside the area or slaughter their animals at the public slaughterhouses at Barry or Bridgend. The meat at these public slaughterhouses is inspected by the Public Health Inspector concerned before it leaves the premises.

On occasions, meat in butchers' shops is found unfit, chiefly due to internal decomposition. This is examined by the Public Health Inspector and a certificate issued and arrangements made for its collection by a licenced dealer, who has a modern digesting plant where unfit foods are sterilised before being put to other use.

Periodical inspections are also made in all food shops, and food found to be unfit is condemned and the necessary certificates issued.

The amount of food condemned during the year under review is set out below:-

| <u>Class of Food.</u> | lbs. | ozs. |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|
| Tinned meats | 69 | 0 |
| Tinned ham | 50 | 10 |
| Other tinned foods | 4 | 8 |
| Total | 124 lbs. | 2 ozs. |

SHEEP AND CATTLE MARKET.

Cowbridge, an ancient marketing centre, has a compact, corporation owned cattle and sheep market, which is leased by two local auctioneering firms. Monday is market day, and it is extensively used by farmers and butchers in the south of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Modern tubular steel cattle pens were installed in 1957 together with a covered sales ring. Additional sheep and pig pens were also provided.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955: ADULTERATIONS, ETC.

The following samples were taken in this area by Mr. W. D. Lewis the County Public Health Inspector during the year ended 31st December, 1959:-

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|----|
| Cake Sponge Mix etc. | 3 | Meat Paste | 1 |
| Cockles | 1 | Meat Pies | 1 |
| Cornflour | 1 | Olive Oil | 2 |
| Crean | 3 | Pastry Mix | 1 |
| Desiccated Coconut | 1 | Pepper | 1 |
| Dessert Powder | 1 | Sauces | 3 |
| Fish (canned) | 1 | Soft Drinks | 2 |
| Fish Cakes | 1 | Tapioca | 1 |
| Fruit (canned) | 2 | Vegetables (canned) | 1 |
| Fruit (dried) | 2 | Vinegar | 1 |
| Gelatine | 1 | Vitamin Tabs, etc. | 1 |
| Health Salts | 1 | | |
| | | Total | 33 |

SHOPS.

There has been a gradual improvement in the appearance of shops since the end of the war both inside and outside the premises. No instances were found where statutory action was necessary.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.Infectious Diseases.

Twenty cases of Measles were notified during the year. All cases were nursed at home. Three cases of Pneumonia were also notified, one of which was admitted to the St. Athan R.A.F. Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

The position at January and December 1959 was as follows:-

| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Total |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------|
| | M | F | M | F | |
| On Register 1st January, 1959 | 1 | 5 | 1 | - | 7 |
| On Register 31st December, 1959 | 2 | 3 | - | - | 5 |

Additions to Register.

No new cases were notified in the area during the year.

One male pulmonary case was transferred into the area during the year and his name was added to the register.

Removals.

One female respiratory case left the Borough during the year. One male non-pulmonary and one female pulmonary case were removed as 'recovered.'

Housing Conditions.

All the cases of tuberculosis are satisfactorily housed and it was not necessary to draw the attention of the Council to any matter during the year.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

(a) Polio myelitis:- The Divisional Medical Officer for the South-East Glamorgan Health Division has supplied me with figures as to the number of injections which have been given during the year to children in the Cowbridge Borough and Rural District, which amounts to 1,167 with polio vaccine. Unfortunately, it is not possible to have separate figures for the Cowbridge Borough but it is hoped to have separate figures for inclusion in next year's report.

(b) Smallpox Vaccination:- Vaccination against smallpox is usually carried out by the family practitioner and preferably in the first few months of life. It is an entirely voluntary matter with parents as to whether they have their children vaccinated or not. Here again, it is important that infants should be vaccinated as soon as their age and health permits.

(c) Diphtheria Immunisation:- No cases of diphtheria have occurred during the year and no doubt this is largely due to the fact that immunisation against this disease has been carried out in the past. There has been a tendency in recent years for the number of children receiving immunisation to lessen, and again I must impress the importance of children being immunised in early infancy, and further more receiving booster doses when they have reached school age.

The Divisional Medical Officer has also supplied the following diphtheria immunisation and vaccination details, but these also include the figures for the Cowbridge Rural District:-

| Immunisation 1959 | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|
| Under 5 | 5 - 15 years | Boosters |
| 234 | 1 | 29 |

CINEMAS.

The only cinema in the area has now been closed.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Act during the year.

POULTRY KEEPING ON COUNCIL'S HOUSING ESTATES.

The Borough Council has a standard for poultry keeping on the Council's housing estate. Few householders only now keep poultry and during the year no complaints were received that poultry was being kept under insanitary conditions.

Details of the Council's standards were included in last year's report.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The report on the action taken in connection with Factories in the area is set out below:-

| Premises | Number on Register | Inspections | Notices |
|--|--------------------|-------------|---------|
| Factories in which:- Section 1 (Cleanliness) Section 2 (Overcrowding) Section 3 (Temperature) Section 4 (Ventilation) Section 6 (Drainage of Floors) are enforced by the Council | 3 | 8 | Nil |
| Factories in which:- Section 7 (Sanitary Conveniences) only is enforced by the Council | 8 | 14 | 1 |
| Total | 11 | 22 | 1 |

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1959.

| | Inspections | Preliminary Notices | Statutory Notices |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Drainage and Sewerage | 47 | Nil | Nil |
| Meat, Foods and Food Premises | 51 | 2 | Nil |
| Milk and Dairies | 7 | Nil | Nil |
| Housing | 67 | 3 | Nil |
| Public Health Act | 31 | 5 | Nil |
| Infectious Disease | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Factories and Workshops | 22 | Nil | Nil |
| House Refuse | 49 | Nil | Nil |
| Water Supplies | 4 | Nil | Nil |
| Works in Progress | 77 | Nil | Nil |
| Miscellaneous | 21 | Nil | Nil |
| Total | 376 | 10 | Nil |

